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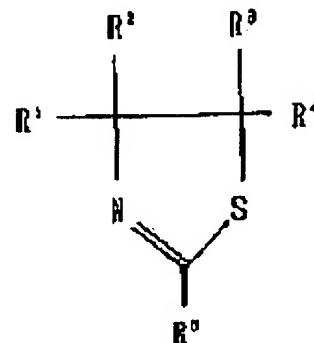
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## (54) CATALYST FOR ISOMERIZING BISPHENOLS AND METHOD FOR ISOMERIZATION

(57)Abstract:

**PURPOSE:** To smoothly and efficiently isomerize isomers other than the objective phenols and convert the isomers into the objective bisphenols by using a partially modified strongly acidic ion exchange resin as a catalyst.  
**CONSTITUTION:** A carbonyl compound is condensed with phenols using a strongly acidic ion exchange resin in which an acidic functional group is modified with mercapto-thiazolines expressed by the formula (R1 to R5 are H, OH, NH2, NO3, carbonyl, carboxyl, acetyl, sulfone, alkyl, cycloalkyl, allyl or mercapto, with the proviso that at least one thereof is mercapto), e.g. 2-mercapto-thiazoline as a catalyst to produce bisphenols. In the process, isomers of bisphenols formed as a by-product other than the objective bisphenols are brought into contact with the catalyst and converted into the objective bisphenols. A sulfonic acid type styrene-divinylbenzene-based cation exchange resin is preferred as the strongly acidic ion exchange resin. The modification ratio is preferably  $\leq 70\%$ , especially preferably 10-25%.



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